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CLASSIFICATION

East Germany

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REPORT

COUNTRY

Information from the Border Area

TOPIC

EVALUATION

25X1 PLACE OBTAINED

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DATE OF CONTENT

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DATE OBTAINED

DATE PREPARED

22 July 1953

REFERENCES

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PAGES

2

ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

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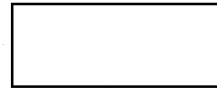
1. On 28 and 29 June 1953, the situation in the border area from Priwall as far as Ratzburg Lake appeared unchanged. Contrary to newspaper reports, gates as well as the wire fence, 3 to 4 high, were still there. [redacted] a stripe, 2 to 3 m wide, had been filled with brushwork up to the height of 1 m. The attitude of the VPs employed on the eastern side was less friendly and agreeable.¹
2. In late June and early July, Hildburghausen was occupied by Soviets and VPs as previously. Soviets who had arrived on 20 May were still quartered in the Technikum building and adjacent houses. They wore red epaulets and belonged to rather young classes. [redacted] Residents stated that several hundred soldiers had arrived on two trains on 20 May.²
3. In early July 1953, a Soviet detail of about 100 soldiers was still stationed in Heldburg. The unit furnished patrols who were trucked to their assigned border sectors [redacted] A captain, who was commanding officer of this unit, inspected the border police in Holzhausen on 27 June 1953. He appeared without previous warning [redacted] In late June and early July, construction material was shipped to Hill 362,8, allegedly for the erection of a higher look-out.³
4. On 3 July, normal patrol duty was performed by the border police in the Holzhausen sector, with one VP patrolling the area behind the 10-m stripe at intervals of about one hour. A detail of 2 Soviets and 2 VPs also daily checked the 10-m stripe for footmarks during the early hours.¹
5. In late June, VP in an estimated strength of 60 men was located in Streudorf since 24 June. Residents stated that two large low wooden buildings were under construction by VPs on the edge of the woods close to the Hopfenberg(hill).¹
6. In late June 1953, the area of Almerswind was still patrolled by VPs at intervals of about 30 minutes. Elevated look-outs were erected in this area to make it possible to watch persons working in the 500-m stripe. On 29 June, VPs reconditioned the 10-m stripe in this area.¹
7. In late June and early July 1953, the border area of Sonneberg Koepfeladorf was patrolled as previously by VPs and Soviets. Reinforced VP patrols were under way in the area behind the 500-m stripe on 28 June. A refugee stated that the school in Koepfeladorf-Nord was vacated and quartered VPs. Barracks installations for the

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SECRET

- 2 -

25X1*



Soviets were allegedly under construction at this post.¹

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1. [Redacted] Comment. The information checks [Redacted]

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2. [Redacted] Comment. The arrival at the same time of VPs was confirmed by [Redacted] large border police transfers from Mecklenburg to the alert units in Dermbach and Meiningen occurred in mid-May. [Redacted]

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3. [Redacted] Comment. [Redacted]

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[Redacted] the elements stationed in Heldburg were elements of the 39th Gds Rifle Div.

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